

this letter and another in which Dartmouth expressed his despair at learning the King's own intention to fly to Prance, but he does not print the letter in which the King announced his intentions and ordered Dartmouth to take what ships he could to Ireland and place them at the disposal of Tyrconnel. It was dated Whitehall, December
JO.¹

My affairs are, as you know, in so desperate a condition that I have been obliged to send away the Queene and the Prince, to secure them at least, what so ever becoms of me, that am resolved to venture all rather than consent to anything in the least prejudicial to the Crowne or my conscience, and having been basely deserted by many officers and souldiers of my troupes, and finding such an infection gott amongst very many of those who still continu with me on shore, and that the same poyson is gott amongst the fleettj as you yourself owne to me in some of your letters, I could no longer resolve to expose myself to no purpose to what I might expect from the ambitious Prince of Orange and the associated rebellious Lords, and therefore have resolved to withdraw, till this violent storme is over, which will be in God's good tyme, and hope that there will still remaine in this land seven thousand men which will not bow downe the knee to Baal and keep themselves free from associations and such rebellious practices. I know not whether any of the fleett under your command are free to continu serving me; if they are, their

best course
will be to go to Irland, where there are still
some that will
stick to me. If any are free to go order them
thither to
follow such orders as they shall receve from
Lord Tyr-
connel If they will not there is no remedy, and
this I may
say, never any Prince took more care of his
sea and land
men as I have done, and been so very ill
repayd by them.

This was too much for even the loyal
Dartmouth. He
preferred to obey the orders he received
from the council

¹ Dartmouth MSS., i. 226.